

State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 235 NEW JOBS IN CHARLOTTE One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps Pulte Mortgage Open New Processing Center

RALEIGH -- Gov. Mike Easley announced today that Pulte Mortgage LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Pulte Homes Inc., will open a mortgage origination and processing facility in Charlotte, investing more than \$2 million in the area and creating 235 jobs over the next three years. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$110,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

"Pulte Mortgage's decision to locate in North Carolina to serve its growing East Coast market is proof that our aggressive economic development strategies are paying off," said Easley. "Our strong emphasis on education and workforce development ensures that companies such as Pulte Mortgage can be successful here and that our state remains highly competitive in the new global economy."

Pulte Mortgage, a national lender headquartered in Denver, plans to invest more than \$2 million on building improvements and equipment for the new Charlotte facility. The company estimates that the total investment may reach as much as \$4 million. The Charlotte processing center is the company's first outside of Colorado. The majority of the new jobs will be mortgage, loan and application processing positions, with average yearly salary at the facility, including employee incentive bonuses, at \$60,000 plus benefits. The average wage for Mecklenburg County is \$32,000 not including benefits.

Debra Still, president of Pulte Mortgage LLC, said the company chose the Charlotte area for several reasons. "It offers us a talented labor pool and a welcoming business climate," said Sill. "We look forward to getting underway with this expansion effort."

The One North Carolina Fund helps the state recruit and expand quality jobs by providing financial assistance to businesses or industries deemed by the governor to be vital to a healthy and growing state economy. Through the use of this Fund, more than 16,000 jobs and \$2 billion in investment have been created since 2001.

Other partners that helped make this announcement possible include the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, the N.C. Community College System, the Charlotte office of the N.C. Employment Securities Commission and the N.C. Department of Commerce.

For more information about Pulte Mortgage, visit <u>www.pulte.com</u>. For employment information with Pulte Mortgage LLC, visit <u>http://careers.pulte.com</u>

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